



The Toggle Iron

Working Waterfront Festival a Huge Success

In September, after a year of planning, the first annual Working Waterfront Festival kicked off under beautiful blue skies and bright autumn sunshine. A steady crowd flowed along the city's waterfront over the three day weekend taking in the sights and sounds associated with New Bedford's commercial fishing industry. The festival featured music, food, occupational demonstrations and book signings in addition to several opportunities for the public to learn about life at sea and in a busy fishing port.

Visitors were given an up close look at the workings of a real fishing boat by touring one of the fleet's newest additions, F/V Pacer. In addition, two very popular contests, scallop shucking and net mending, were brought back for the festival (they had originally been part of the New Bedford Scallop Festival which ended in the early 1990s) and drew an overflow crowd of spectators. Local seafood was the culinary favorite of the day and ship's galley cooks talked about what it's like to cook for a crew in a rolling kitchen while sharing favorite recipes and samples. Music of the sea played into the evening all three days and renowned authors such as Linda Greenlaw, *The Hungry Ocean*, shared their love of the sea and signed copies of their latest books.

A narrative stage featured fishermen telling tales of long careers at sea, covering topics like "storms at sea", "close calls" and "miraculous rescues", while members of fishing families held the audience's attention with stories of what it's like to maintain a home and raise children while waiting for loved ones to return from a two week or longer fishing trip.



An aerial view of the first annual Working Waterfront Festival.

An oral history station, funded by a Northeast Region Civic Engagement grant, recorded interviews of long time commercial fishermen and others with ties to the industry. The National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA) is providing assistance in the transcription and preservation of these interviews which will be used by the park for interpretive and

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From the Superintendent

National Park Service employees—park rangers in particular—are frequently quoted as saying that their real payment comes in sunsets. While mountain ranges and grand canyons are what may first come to mind, I would challenge anyone to find a sunset more inspiring than a late summer or early fall on the New Bedford waterfront among the gulls and the fishing boats moored side-by-side. Whaling voyages generally lasted three to five years. Mine has lasted six in New Bedford. It has been a rewarding journey with a fine crew. Thank you all for your support. I look forward to hearing tales of all your future voyages.

John Piltzecker

Piltzecker Heads to DC

On October 4th, John W. Piltzecker, the first Superintendent at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park began his new job as the Chief of the National Park Service Partnership Program. The announcement of Piltzecker's appointment was made in September by National Park Service (NPS) Director Fran Mainella.



"I am excited to announce that John Piltzecker will join the National Park Service Washington Office management team as NPS Partnership Manager," said NPS Director Fran Mainella. "John brings a wealth of management experience to the job along with a remarkable

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Waterfront Festival

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educational purposes. The NCTA was involved with the festival planning from the beginning and provided technical support and stage management throughout the three day festival weekend.

This unique festival provided an opportunity to highlight the traditions and culture of the New Bedford fishing industry and created a forum at which local fisherman and support

personnel could share their stories and educate the public. Rodney Avila, long time fisherman and boat owner, commented on the impact of this festival, “It has been a long time since I have been this proud to be a fisherman from New Bedford.”

Mark your calendars for the second annual Working Waterfront Festival set for September 23, 24 and 25, 2005!



Performers on the Ernestina stage at the festival.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park was established in 1996 to help preserve and interpret America's nineteenth century whaling history. The park encompasses a 13-block National Historic Landmark District and addresses the history of the whaling industry and its influence on the economic, social, and environmental history of the United States.

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National Historical Park**
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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Fresh New Bedford seafood such as clamcakes (above) scallops, and fish were a crowd favorite.



A scalloper entering New Bedford harbor.



Participants in the scallop shucking contest prepare for the start of competition.



Temple Toggle-Iron: The most successful harpoon ever made. Invented by Lewis Temple, an African American whalecraft-maker of New Bedford, Massachusetts in 1848, and at first called “porpoise iron” and “Temple’s gig.” It became the universal whale iron, and has never been improved upon. (From Clifford W. Ashley’s, The Yankee Whaler)

Party Honors Superintendent John Piltzecker

On September 29th more than 50 park staff, volunteers, park partners, friends and family gathered at the park visitor center to say a warm farewell to John Piltzecker, the park's first Superintendent. In September, National Park Service Director Fran Mainella announced Piltzecker's appointment as Chief of the National Park Service Partnership Program headquartered in Washington, D.C.

The farewell party kicked off with a brief speaking program by Deputy Superintendent Tom Ross which included a presentation by park staff of a plaque and a full size replica harpoon honoring his dedicated and distinguished service. In a prepared speech delivered by Ross he stated that "in his [John Piltzecker] six years at the park he amassed an incredible list of accomplishments that are really too many to cite, but maybe his biggest accomplishment was that he set a tone and created a mind set for collaboration and partnerships."

City of New Bedford Mayor Frederick M. Kalisz, Jr. was also on hand to present

Piltzecker with a Mayoral Proclamation recognizing his contributions to the community. As well, New Bedford City Councilor Jane Gonsalves presented him with a City Council Resolution honoring his dedicated service to the city. Piltzecker also received an American flag which flew over the

US Capitol Building presented by Mr. Joseph Theodore of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Others brought small gifts and kind words of appreciation for his six years of dedicated work and accomplishments at the park.



John Piltzecker receives an American flag from Joseph Theodore of the VFW while Mayor Frederick M. Kalisz Jr. (far right) and Deputy Superintendent Tom Ross look on.

Piltzecker Heads to DC

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portfolio of operational program expertise and a proven track record in building strong and effective partnerships. I welcome John as a leader who will work to further build National Park Service programs through strengthening private sector support."

Piltzecker will manage a program with responsibility for coordinating the policies, procedures, and training that promote effective partnerships and public involvement. The Partnership Office works to develop and sustain partnerships that invite public participation, understanding, and support of the national parks and the mission of the National Park Service.

Chris Jarvi, Associate Director for Partnership, Interpretation & Education, Volunteerism & Outdoor Recreation, who Piltzecker will work

for, said, "I selected John Piltzecker for this position because of his strong background with National Park Service operations, planning, and policy and because of his demonstrated ability for building and sustaining internal and external strategic partnerships. I am looking forward to working together on some exciting projects."

On accepting the assignment, Piltzecker stated "I welcome this opportunity to be part of the national effort to build and sustain effective partnerships. I look forward to joining the team of people who have been working at all levels to engage the public in the stewardship of our National Park Service areas."

A native of Rutherford, New Jersey, Piltzecker has more than 21 years of

experience in the National Park Service. He spent the past six years serving as Superintendent at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park where he developed a wide range of collaborative partnerships helping to foster visitor understanding and enjoyment, and preserving the park's historical resources.

In addition to establishing relationships with state and municipal agencies, nonprofit institutions and community organizations, Piltzecker has been involved in an ongoing international program with the Azores, Portugal and projects with the park's legislatively affiliated site, the Inupiat Heritage Center, located in Barrow, Alaska.



Volunteer Spotlight



Name: John Caron

Age: 35

City/Town you live in: New Bedford

Family: Wife: Agata

Occupation: English Teacher at Dartmouth High School

Special Interests/Hobbies: American and European History, architecture, maritime interests and traveling.

How long have you been a volunteer at the visitor center? Less than 1 year

Why did you decide to become a volunteer? To contribute in a small way to New Bedford.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering at the visitor center? Meeting visitors from around the United States and abroad.

What is the most interesting thing that you've done in your life? Served as a United States Peace Corps volunteer in Poland from 1991-1993.

What is the one thing that you'd like to do or try? Travel with wife to all regions of Italy and take a transatlantic voyage on the Queen Mary 2.

If you grew up in this area, what is one of your fondest memories? Ice cream at Salvadors and summers at Anthony's Beach in South Dartmouth.



Name: Theresa R. Gallagher (Terry)

City/Town you live in: Fairhaven

Family: Husband: Dan, 2 sons: Andrew and Patrick, daughter: Julie

Occupation: Teacher at East Fairhaven Elementary School

Special Interests/Hobbies: Camping, reading, gardening

How long have you been a volunteer at the visitor center? 2 years

Why did you decide to become a volunteer? I've always lived in the area and love the history that is tied to the harbor. Being able to share what I know with out of town visitors is a lot of fun.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering at the visitor center? I enjoy meeting people who come to visit our area. Some are from Massachusetts and New England but many come from all over the country as well as from other countries. It's very interesting.

What is the most interesting thing that you've done in your life? Besides having a wonderful family, I would say attending college late in life has allowed me to meet many interesting people from all age groups and all walks of life.

What is the one thing that you'd like to do or try? I would like to visit Alaska and Hawaii as well as camp at the National Parks out west.

If you grew up in this area, what is one of your fondest memories? I grew up in the north end of New Bedford and remember skating on the pond at Brooklawn Park. There was always such a nice crowd.

2004 Visitor Survey Results

Percentage of park visitors satisfied with facilities, services and recreational opportunities.....98%

Percentage of park visitors satisfied with assistance from park employees.....98%

Percentage of park visitors satisfied with Ranger and Volunteer Programs.....100%

*Percentages based on how many respondents indicated whether a service was *good* or *very good*

Park Crew List

Editor's Note: Whaleships leaving New Bedford were required to register crew members on a whaling voyage. In this section of the Toggle Iron we highlight a member of the "crew" that helps keep New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park on course. This edition of our newsletter pays a special tribute to the person who was the captain of our crew for the past six years, John Piltzecker.

In January 1998 when John Piltzecker arrived at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park as its first Superintendent he entered one of the nation's newest National Parks, a park that had been established by Congress a mere 14 months earlier (November 1996).

From his first day to his last, a span of six years, John worked diligently in building a national park from the ground up. Some of his greatest accomplishments include the rehabilitation of the park's visitor center and development of orientation exhibits, creation of the park's orientation movie, completion of the park's General Management Plan,

installation of outdoor interpretive exhibits, development of international projects and the fostering of numerous community-based partnerships.

His talents, work ethic, product-oriented approach and ability to develop partnerships

and forge relationships will be missed, but not forgotten in New Bedford. We wish him the best in his new position in Washington, D.C.

John was more than just a boss. He was a leader, a mentor and a friend to us all.



The 2004 Staff photo with John Piltzecker (third from right) and the crew he led for the past 6 years.

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Tom Ross Enrolls in Leadership Program



Deputy Superintendent Thomas E. Ross was selected to participate in the Executive Leadership Program (ELP) offered by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Graduate School. The 12-month nationwide leadership program is open to upper level managers from all federal agencies who are seeking to improve their leadership and management skills in their current positions or in preparation of attaining positions of greater responsibility.

The ELP offers in-residence training, developmental work experiences, needs assessment and career planning. Ross said of his selection into the program, "this is an exciting opportunity for me to improve my

leadership and managerial skills as well as broaden my work experiences through developmental work assignments which will take me to other parks in the National Park Service System. I look forward to bringing these skills and experiences back to my position here at New Bedford Whaling NHP."

The program began in August 2004 and runs through September 2005.

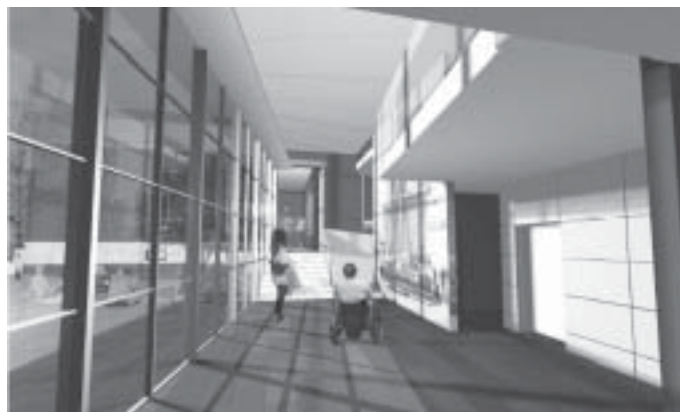
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Corson Project Moves Forward

Transforming the Corson Building into the park's education and public program center took another big step forward when the project received approval from the Development Advisory Board (DAB) in Denver this past July. The DAB is responsible for approving all National Park Service construction projects that have a budget of \$500,000 or greater. The DAB members bring a wide range of skills and background to the process to ensure that all projects are designed to get the best possible project for the greatest value.

Park Superintendent John Piltzecker and Historical Architect Derek Santos joined Richard Crane, the project manager from the Denver Service Center, to make the presentation. The presentation hit its mark with members of the DAB, after a spirited question and answer session. "John did a great job" said Derek Santos, "He was so confident with his knowledge of the project that the Q&A session went extremely well. All of the DAB's questions were answered and the strengths of the project became obvious."

With the go ahead from the DAB, the park is working with the project architects-TAMS, the Northeast Regional Office and its partners in moving the project design from concept to reality. The project will likely be constructed in two phases. Phase I includes the construction of a new seismic steel frame, a permanent roof and new windows for the Corson Building proper. Phase I will complete the stabilization of the structure, but not open the building to the public. Phase II tackles the construction of the glass and steel structure that will link the historic visitor center and the Corson Building and all interior finishes for the facility's completion. Look for updates and progress reports in future editions of the Toggle Iron.



Conceptual image of the link interior looking towards the visitor center.

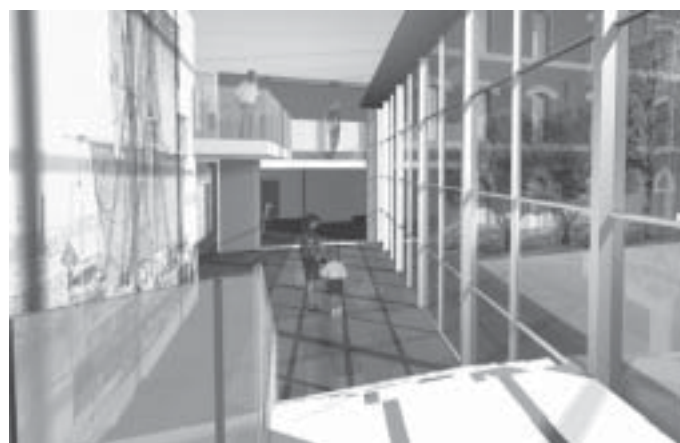


Image showing the link interior looking towards the entrance to the theater lobby. The Corson Building can be seen through the glass wall.

Volunteers Visit Blackstone River Valley NHC

On October 23, nearly 50 park volunteers traveled to the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, a partnership park set up in a similar fashion to New Bedford Whaling NHP, to meet with members of the park's VIP program and to tour the valley and sites associated with the region's history.

Upon arrival, the group was treated to a viewing of "Hidden in the Blackstone Valley", an orientation film shown at the Pawtucket Visitor Center. After an introduction to the valley and the role the National Park Service plays within the multi-jurisdictional partnership, the group toured the Slater Mill Historic Site and traveled by bus through the valley, culminating with a river tour on the 48 passenger boat Blackstone Valley Explorer.

The day finished with a tour of the Museum of Work and Culture and a networking reception hosted by Blackstone Valley volunteers. "Suzanne Buchanan and the volunteer crew at Blackstone were wonderful hosts to our group. They really gave us the red carpet

treatment," says Chief of Visitor Services Jennifer Gonsalves, "What a great opportunity for our volunteers to see another NPS site that has such similarities to ours and to gain a greater understanding of how others work within partnerships to interpret such important American stories."



Volunteers enjoyed a ride on the Blackstone Valley Explorer.

Park Program Added to National Network



In July the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom accepted *Discovering New Bedford's Underground Railroad History*, an interpretive program at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, into the Network to Freedom. The National Underground Railroad Network coordinates preservation and education efforts nationwide and integrates local historical places, museums, and interpretive programs

associated with the Underground Railroad into a mosaic of community, regional, and national stories.

Discovering New Bedford's Underground Railroad History takes park visitors on a journey from New Bedford's waterfront, through the cobblestone streets of the historic district and to the first free home of Frederick Douglass after his escape from slavery in 1838. The program explores the alluring factors that contributed to New Bedford becoming a haven for escaped slaves and uncovers some of the untold stories from our nation's past. Guided tours are offered seasonally and a self-guided brochure is available year round at the visitor center.

An estimated 300-700 escaped slaves lived in New Bedford between the mid -1840s and 1860. New Bedford was attractive to

escaping slaves from the south for many reasons including: the whaling industry made the city both wealthy and in constant need of labor; the city was an active part of a coastal trading system that regularly traded manufactured goods for raw goods in southern ports—providing opportunities for escaping slaves to stow away amid ships' cargoes; Quakers, who controlled the city's political and economic life into the 1820s, had taken an early stand against slavery and helped build anti-slavery sentiment in New Bedford; and the city also had a large population of color that was very involved in anti-slavery activity since at least the 1820s.

To learn more about the *Discovering New Bedford's Underground Railroad History* Program contact Park Ranger Frank Barrows at frank_barrows@nps.gov.

Whaleboat Regatta Strengthens Cultural Ties

In August, a week-long whaleboat regatta highlighted cultural ties between New Bedford, Massachusetts and the Azores, Portugal. Hosted by the Azorean Maritime Heritage Society in collaboration with the New Bedford Whaling Museum, the City of New Bedford, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, Governo Regional dos Acores Comunidades, Camara da Horta and the Low Tide Yacht Club, the regatta brought together whaleboat crews from the islands of Faial and Pico in the Azores with their counterparts in New Bedford. The week-long schedule included several opportunities for the public to learn more about Azorean-Portuguese history and culture and to watch teams from New Bedford and the Azores compete in whaleboat races in New Bedford harbor.

Two whaleboat crews, one from Faial and one from Pico, joined their American counterparts, members of the Azorean Maritime Heritage Society, in timed sailing races in Clark's Cove in New Bedford's south end. The three teams rotated through the races in three Azorean whaleboats, two built in New Bedford as part

of a 1999 partnership project and one built on Faial. Unlike traditional New Bedford whaleboats, which were lowered from whaleships to pursue whales, Azorean whaleboats are longer in profile and were launched from beaches or boathouses. During the 19th and early 20th centuries New Bedford Whalers stopping in the

Azores signed on Azoreans as crew members who eventually settled in New Bedford and continued to work in the industry. The last whaleship sailed out of New Bedford harbor in the mid-1920s and whaling ended in the Azores in the mid-1980s.





National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

New Bedford Whaling
National Historical Park

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the second Thursday of each month

All venues and programs are FREE!

Thursday, November 11

“Artists and Artisans”

Thursday, December 9

“A Mosaic of Traditions”

Thursday, January 13

“Black and White”

5-9 PM

www.ahanewbedford.org

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